

IC 34-28-5

Chapter 5. Infraction and Ordinance Violation Enforcement Proceedings

IC 34-28-5-1

Prosecution in name of state or municipality; rules; limitations; burden of proof; deferral program

Sec. 1. (a) An action to enforce a statute defining an infraction shall be brought in the name of the state of Indiana by the prosecuting attorney for the judicial circuit in which the infraction allegedly took place. However, if the infraction allegedly took place on a public highway (as defined in IC 9-25-2-4) that runs on and along a common boundary shared by two (2) or more judicial circuits, a prosecuting attorney for any judicial circuit sharing the common boundary may bring the action.

(b) An action to enforce an ordinance shall be brought in the name of the municipal corporation. The municipal corporation need not prove that it or the ordinance is valid unless validity is controverted by affidavit.

(c) Actions under this chapter (or IC 34-4-32 before its repeal):

(1) shall be conducted in accordance with the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure; and

(2) must be brought within two (2) years after the alleged conduct or violation occurred.

(d) The plaintiff in an action under this chapter must prove the commission of an infraction or ordinance violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(e) The complaint and summons described in IC 9-30-3-6 may be used for any infraction or ordinance violation.

(f) The prosecuting attorney or the attorney for a municipal corporation may establish a deferral program for deferring actions brought under this section. Actions may be deferred under this section if:

(1) the defendant in the action agrees to conditions of a deferral program offered by the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for a municipal corporation;

(2) the defendant in the action agrees to pay to the clerk of the court an initial user's fee and monthly user's fee set by the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for the municipal corporation in accordance with IC 33-37-4-2(e);

(3) the terms of the agreement are recorded in an instrument signed by the defendant and the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for the municipal corporation;

(4) the defendant in the action agrees to pay court costs of twenty-five dollars (\$25) to the clerk of court if the action involves a moving traffic offense (as defined in IC 9-13-2-110); and

(5) the agreement is filed in the court in which the action is brought.

When a defendant complies with the terms of an agreement filed

under this subsection (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal), the prosecuting attorney or the attorney for the municipal corporation shall request the court to dismiss the action. Upon receipt of a request to dismiss an action under this subsection, the court shall dismiss the action. An action dismissed under this subsection (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal) may not be refiled.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24. Amended by P.L.98-2000, SEC.12; P.L.98-2004, SEC.123.

IC 34-28-5-2

Moving traffic violation; pleadings

Sec. 2. In an action for a moving traffic violation, the pleadings are as follows:

- (1) A summons and complaint.
- (2) Entry by a defendant of:
 - (A) an admission to the violation;
 - (B) a denial of the violation; or
 - (C) a declaration of nolo contendere in which the defendant consents to entry of judgment for the state without admitting to the violation.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-3

Detention

Sec. 3. Whenever a law enforcement officer believes in good faith that a person has committed an infraction or ordinance violation, the law enforcement officer may detain that person for a time sufficient to:

- (1) inform the person of the allegation;
- (2) obtain the person's:
 - (A) name, address, and date of birth; or
 - (B) driver's license, if in the person's possession; and
- (3) allow the person to execute a notice to appear.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-3.5

Refusal to identify self

Sec. 3.5. A person who knowingly or intentionally refuses to provide either the person's:

- (1) name, address, and date of birth; or
- (2) driver's license, if in the person's possession;

to a law enforcement officer who has stopped the person for an infraction or ordinance violation commits a Class C misdemeanor.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-4

Maximum judgments

Sec. 4. (a) A judgment of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class A infraction.

(b) A judgment of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) may be

entered for a violation constituting a Class B infraction.

(c) A judgment of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class C infraction.

(d) A judgment of up to twenty-five dollars (\$25) may be entered for a violation constituting a Class D infraction.

(e) A judgment:

(1) up to the amount requested in the complaint; and

(2) not exceeding any limitation under IC 36-1-3-8;

may be entered for an ordinance violation.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-5

Costs; deposit of funds; findings required for judgment

Sec. 5. (a) A defendant against whom a judgment is entered is liable for costs. Costs are part of the judgment and may not be suspended except under IC 9-30-3-12. Whenever a judgment is entered against a person for the commission of two (2) or more civil violations (infractions or ordinance violations), the court may waive the person's liability for costs for all but one (1) of the violations. This subsection does not apply to judgments entered for violations constituting:

(1) Class D infractions; or

(2) Class C infractions for unlawfully parking in a space reserved for a person with a physical disability under IC 5-16-9-5 or IC 5-16-9-8.

(b) If a judgment is entered:

(1) for a violation constituting:

(A) a Class D infraction; or

(B) a Class C infraction for unlawfully parking in a space reserved for a person with a physical disability under IC 5-16-9-5 or IC 5-16-9-8; or

(2) in favor of the defendant in any case;

the defendant is not liable for costs.

(c) Except for costs, the funds collected as judgments for violations of statutes defining infractions shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(d) A judgment may be entered against a defendant under this section or section 4 of this chapter upon a finding by the court that the defendant:

(1) violated:

(A) a statute defining an infraction; or

(B) an ordinance; or

(2) consents to entry of judgment for the plaintiff upon a pleading of nolo contendere for a moving traffic violation.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-6

Suspension of driver's license

Sec. 6. If a defendant fails to satisfy a judgment entered against the defendant for the violation of a traffic ordinance or for a traffic

infraction by a date fixed by the court, the court may suspend the defendant's drivers license. When a court suspends a person's drivers license under this section, the court shall forward notice of the suspension to the bureau of motor vehicles.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-7

Traffic violations bureau; clerk

Sec. 7. Any court may establish a traffic violations bureau and appoint a violations clerk who shall serve under the direction and control of the court.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-8

Duties of clerk

Sec. 8. The violations clerk or deputy violations clerk shall:

- (1) accept:
 - (A) written appearances;
 - (B) waivers of trial;
 - (C) admissions of violation;
 - (D) declarations of nolo contendere for moving traffic violations;
 - (E) payments of judgments (including costs) in traffic violation cases; and
 - (F) deferral agreements made under section 1(f) of this chapter (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal) and deferral program fees prescribed under IC 33-37-4-2(e);
- (2) issue receipts and account for any judgments (including costs) collected; and
- (3) pay the judgments (including costs) collected to the appropriate unit of government as provided by law.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24. Amended by P.L.98-2004, SEC.124.

IC 34-28-5-9

Duties of court

Sec. 9. The court shall:

- (1) designate the traffic violations within the authority of the violations clerk, but these violations may not include misdemeanors or felonies;
- (2) establish schedules, within limits prescribed by law, of the judgments to be imposed for first violations, designating each violation specifically;
- (3) order that the schedule of judgments be prominently posted in the place where the fines are paid;
- (4) establish a procedure under which any violations clerk or deputy violations clerk shall accept, receipt, and account for all money tendered for designated traffic violations; and
- (5) dismiss deferred actions if a dismissal request is made under section 1(f) of this chapter (or IC 34-4-32-1(f) before its repeal).

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-10

Duties of county court judge

Sec. 10. If the court is a county court, the judge shall:

- (1) establish a traffic violations bureau in each county which the judge services;
- (2) appoint the clerk of the court to administer the traffic violations bureau; and
- (3) except at a state police unit, appoint the dispatcher on duty at every law enforcement unit within the county to be a deputy violations clerk charged with all of the duties of a violations clerk.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-11

Admission of violation; nolo contendere plea; payment of judgment

Sec. 11. Any person charged with a traffic violation that is within the authority of the violations clerk may mail or deliver:

- (1) the amount of the judgment (including costs) indicated on the ticket; and
- (2) a signed:
 - (A) admission of the violation; or
 - (B) pleading of nolo contendere, if the action is for a moving traffic violation.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-12

Notice requirements for acceptance of admission or nolo contendere plea

Sec. 12. Before accepting a pleading admitting to a violation or entering a declaration of nolo contendere to a violation, the violations clerk or the officer writing the ticket shall inform the person that:

- (1) the person's signature to:
 - (A) an admission of the violation; or
 - (B) a pleading of nolo contendere;will have the same effect as a judgment of a court; and
- (2) the record of judgment will be sent to the commissioner of motor vehicles of Indiana or the state where the person received a license to drive.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-13

Payment by credit card

Sec. 13. A court may permit a person to use a credit card issued by a financial institution for the purpose of paying a court cost and judgment with respect to a traffic violation that is enforced under this chapter. The state board of accounts shall allow a county to pay any applicable credit card service charge on behalf of a court that permits

the use of a credit card under this section. The county fiscal body must appropriate funds to cover the costs of applicable credit card service charges before a court may permit the use of a credit card under this section.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.

IC 34-28-5-14

Written appearance instead of personal appearance before court

Sec. 14. If a person named as a defendant in a summons and complaint issued under IC 5-16-9-10, before the appearance date specified in the summons and complaint, mails or delivers the following to the court having jurisdiction over the action:

- (1) an admission of the violation or a plea of nolo contendere to the violation; and
- (2) a fifty dollar (\$50) civil judgment;

the court shall enter a judgment against the defendant for the violation. An admission or plea of nolo contendere received by the court under this section (or IC 34-4-32-6 before its repeal) constitutes a written appearance and the defendant is not required to personally appear before the court.

As added by P.L.1-1998, SEC.24.